

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to amend claim 1, and the first line of the specification.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

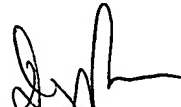
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: May 17, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh

